

¹A different additional content from each other acquired from said other information.

REMARKS

This is responsive to the Office Action dated March 1, 2002 in which all the pending claims 1 - 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Yoda (US Patent No. 5,890,173) in view of Ikenoue et al (US Patent No. 5,987,127). The applicant has amended claims 1 - 4 and added claims 5 - 14 to define the invention more clearly. A marked-up version of the amendment is also enclosed. The applicant respectfully traverses the rejection based on the following explanations.

The applicant believes a brief explanation of the present invention will be helpful in understanding the patentably distinguishing features in the claims over cited prior art. The present invention teaches a technology for reformatting the data in a print spool to be printed. In particular, a tool is provided to intercept the data, use it as a key to determine other information from a database, and generate a document in a new format (claim 5) or print the data in a different format (claim 1) according to the other information determined from the database. As in exemplary embodiments, such a difference in format may include generating of multiple copies of the same document (claims 2 and 6), or generating a document suitable for double-side printing (claim 7). According to the teaching of the present invention, the generated document may also include additional content acquired from the database. Preferably, multiple documents may be generated each comprising the original data (all or partly) and different additional content (claims 3, 10, 11). Thus, the present invention may help to print a document in a different format as desired, or to generate multiple documents from the same original data but with different additional contents. The applicant does not believe these distinguishing features are disclosed or implied in Yoda or its combination with Ikenoue et al.

Yoda (US Patent No. 5,890, 173) discloses a print apparatus to print a plurality of pieces of related document information from different storage means. In particular, with information provided in a base document as a key, the related document information is extracted from different storage means and is printed together with the base document (see col. 2, line 52 to col. 3, line 33). However, Yoda never teaches or implies to print the base document in a different format as defined in claims 1 and 5 in the present application. Furthermore, Yoda does not teach to generate or print multiple documents each of which comprises both the same part (original data) and a different part (additional content), as defined in claims 10 and 11 in the present application. In fact, what Yoda discloses is to consolidate information from different document into the original data (the base document), or, in other words, into a single document which comprises both the original data and additional information. If it is to be construed as “multiple documents” in Yoda, then the base document only includes the original data while other documents only include different data, and none of the “multiple documents” includes both original data and the additional data.

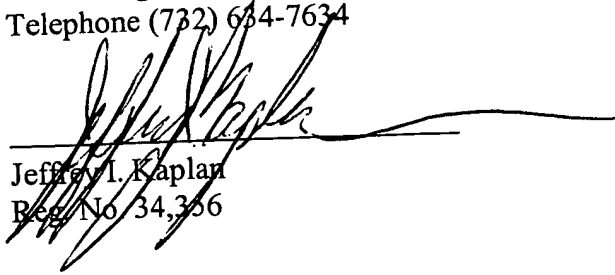
The above distinguishing features cannot be found anywhere in Ikenoue et al either. Therefore, the applicant believes that the present invention as defined in the independent claims 1, 5, 10 and 11 is not obvious from the disclosure of Yoda or its combination with Ikenoue et al, and thus these independent claims are patentable. At least for the same reasons, their dependent claims 2-4, 6-9 and 12-14 are also patentable.

The applicant thus respectfully request for reconsideration of the application. The Examiner is authorized to deduct additional fees believed due from our Deposit Account No. 11-0223.

Respectfully submitted,

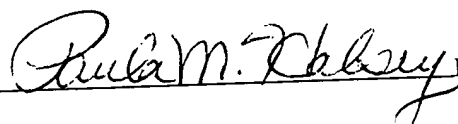
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal service as first class mail, in a postage prepaid envelope, addressed to Box Non-Fee Amendments, Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on April 3, 2002.

Dated March 20, 2002 Signed  Print Name Paula M. Halsey

**MARKED-UP VERSION OF
AMENDED CLAIMS 1-4 AND ADDED CLAIMS 5-14**

1. (Amended) A document formatting tool comprising:
 - means for intercepting data [from an application and] in a document which is being sent to a printer from a print spool;
 - means for utilizing such intercepted data as a key to a database to determine other information relevant to such data; and
 - means for printing out such data in a format different from that in which it was received by [a] said print spool associated with [a] said printer, such difference being based upon said other information received from the database.
2. (Amended) The tool according to claim 1 wherein said difference includes generating multiple copies of said document even when only one copy of said document was received [from] by the print spool.
3. (Amended) The [method of] tool according to claim 1 [wherein said difference includes] further comprises multiple document generators for generating multiple documents which all comprise said data [are similar] and differ [only] from each other by certain information derived from said database [a database look-up].
4. (Amended) The tool according to claim 3 wherein said certain information is based upon whether or not information is confidential.
5. (New) A document formatting tool comprising:
 - means for intercepting data in a document in an original format which is being sent to a printer from a print spool;
 - means for utilizing such intercepted data as a key to a database to determine other information relevant to such data; and

means for generating a new document comprising said data in a new format different from said original format based upon said other information determined from the database.

6. (New) The document formatting tool of claim 5, wherein said difference in format is that said new document comprises multiple copies of said original document.

7. (New) The document formatting tool of claim 5, wherein said difference in format is that said new document is proper for double-side printing by said printer.

8. (New) The document formatting tool of claim 5 wherein said new document further comprises additional content acquired from said other information.

9. (New) The document formatting tool of claim 5 further comprising multiple document generators for generating multiple documents each comprising said data and an additional content acquired from said other information, wherein said additional content in each of multiple documents is different from each other.

10. (New) A document generating tool comprising:

means for intercepting original data in a document which is being sent to a printer from a print spool;

means for utilizing such intercepted data as a key to a database to determine additional information relevant to such data;

means for generating multiple documents each comprising said original data as well as additional data from said additional information, wherein said additional data in each of said multiple documents is different from each other.

11. (New) A document generating tool comprising:

means for intercepting original data in a document which is being sent to a printer from a print spool, said original data comprising a first portion and a second portion;

means for utilizing such intercepted data as a key to a database to determine other information relevant to such data;

means for generating at least two documents based on said determined other information, one comprising both portions of said original data, while the other only comprising said first portion of said original data.

12. (New) The document generating tool of claim 11, wherein said second portion is a confidential portion of said original data.

13. (New) The document generating tool of claim 11, wherein at least one of said documents further comprises additional content acquired from said other information.

14. (New) The document generating tool of claim 11, wherein said each document has different additional content from each other acquired from said other information.